

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1-11 (cancelled).

12 (currently amended). A method for inhibiting the onset of deterioration of the mental capacity of ~~an aged~~ a canine or feline companion pet of 7 years or older, the method comprising ~~which comprises~~ feeding said pet ~~in its adult years~~ when it is 1 to 6 years old a diet that comprises a sufficient amount of an antioxidant or mixture ~~thereof,~~ of antioxidants to accomplish this inhibition.

13 (currently amended). The method ~~in accordance with~~ of claim 12 wherein the pet is a canine.

14 (cancelled).

15 (currently amended). The method ~~in accordance with~~ of claim 12 wherein the pet is a feline.

16 (cancelled).

17 (currently amended). The method ~~in accordance with~~ of claim 12 wherein Vitamin E is fed to the pet in an amount of at least about 100 ppm ~~as measured by~~ of the diet.

18 (currently amended). The method ~~in accordance with~~ of claim 17 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, ~~L-carnitine,~~ L-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid ~~or mixture~~ and mixtures thereof is fed to the pet.

19 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, ~~L-carnitine,~~ L-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof is fed to the pet.

20 (currently amended). The method of claim 19 wherein Vitamin C is fed to the pet in an amount of at least about 50 ppm of ~~Vitamin C are in~~ the diet.

21 (currently amended). The method of claim 19 wherein alpha-lipoic acid is fed to the pet in an amount of at least about 25 ppm of ~~alpha-lipoic acid~~ ~~are in~~ the diet.

22 (currently amended). The method of claim 19 wherein L-carnitine is fed to the pet in an amount of at least about 50 ppm of ~~L-carnitine~~ ~~are in~~ the diet.

23-27 (cancelled).

28 (currently amended). A method for improving a canine or feline companion pet's ability ~~in its aged~~ when 7 years or older to resist oxidative damage, the method comprising ~~which comprises~~ feeding said pet ~~in its adult years~~ when it is 1 to 6 years old a diet meeting nutritional requirement, said diet having at least about 25 ppm alpha-lipoic acid and said diet being fed for at least one month.

29 (cancelled).

30 (currently amended). A method for inhibiting the loss of learning ability of ~~an aged~~ a canine or feline companion pet of 7 years or older, the method comprising ~~which comprises~~ feeding the pet ~~in its adult years~~ when it is 1 to 6 years old an antioxidant or mixture of antioxidants at levels sufficient to accomplish ~~the~~ said inhibiting, ~~the~~ said antioxidant being selected from the group consisting of Vitamin E, Vitamin C, ~~alpha-lipoic acid, L-carnitine~~ alpha-lipoic acid, L-carnitine and mixtures thereof.

31 (cancelled).
